

## PRE

3. Assumption; claim to notice.  
Despise not these few ensuing pages; for never was any thing of this *pretence* more ingeniously imparted. *Evelyn.*
4. Claim true or false.  
Spirits in our just *pretences* arm'd  
Fell with us. *Milton.*  
Primogeniture cannot have any *pretence* to a right of solely inheriting property or power. *Locke.*
5. *Shakespeare* uses this word with more affinity to the original Latin, for something threatened, or held out to terrify.  
I have conceived a most faint neglect of late, which I have rather blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very *pretence* and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare.*  
In the great hand of God I stand, and thence  
Against the undivul'd *pretence* I fight  
Of treas'rous malice. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*  
He hath writ this to feel my affection for your honour, and to no other *pretence* of danger. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- To PRETEND. *v. a.* [*pretendo*, Lat. *pretendere*, Fr.]  
1. To hold out; to stretch forward. This is mere Latinity, and not used.  
Lucasius, to lash his horses, bends  
Prone to the wheels, and his left foot *pretends*. *Dryden.*  
2. To portend; to forebode. Not in use.  
All these movements seemed to be *pretended* by moving of the earth in Suffolk. *Hayward.*  
3. To make any appearance of having; to allege falsely.  
This let him know,  
Left wilfully transgressing he *pretend*  
Surprised. *Milton.*  
What reason then can any man *pretend* against religion, when it is so apparently for the benefit, not only of human society, but of every particular person. *Tillotson.*
4. To show hypocritically.  
'Tis their interest to guard themselves from those riotous effects of *pretended* zeal, nor is it less their duty. *D. of Piety.*
5. To hold out as a delusive appearance; to exhibit as a cover of something hidden. This is rather Latin.  
Warn all creatures from thee  
Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, *pretended*  
To hellish falsehood, snare them. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
6. To claim. In this sense we rather say, *pretend* to.  
Chiefs shall be grudging the part which they *pretend*. *Dry.*  
Are they not rich? what more can they *pretend*? *Pope.*
- To PRETEND. *v. n.*  
1. To put in a claim truly or falsely. It is seldom used without shade of censure.  
What peace can be, where both to one *pretend*?  
But they more diligent, and we more strong. *Dryden.*  
In those countries that *pretend* to freedom, princes are subject to those laws which their people have chosen. *Swift.*
2. To presume on ability to do any thing; to profess presumptuously.  
Of the ground of redness in this sea are we not fully satisfied; for there is another red sea, whose name we *pretend* not to make out from these principles. *Brown.*
- PRETENDER. *n. s.* [*from pretend*.] One who lays claim to any thing.  
The prize was disputed only till you were seen; now all *pretenders* have withdrawn their claims. *Dryden.*  
Whatever victories the several *pretenders* to the empire obtained over one another, they are recorded on coins without the least reflection. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*  
The numerous *pretenders* to places would never have been kept in order, if expectation had been cut off. *Swift.*  
To just contempt ye vain *pretenders* fall, *Pope.*  
*Pretenders* to philosophy or good sense grow fond of this sort of learning. *Watts.*
- PRETENDINGLY. *adv.* [*from pretending*.] Arrogantly; presumptuously.  
I have a particular reason to look a little *pretendingly* at present. *Collier on Pride.*
- PRETENSION. *n. s.* [*pretensio*, Lat. *pretentio*, Fr.]  
1. Claim true or false.  
But if to unjust things thou dost pretend,  
Ere they begin, let thy *pretensions* end. *Denham.*  
Men indulge those opinions and practices, that favour their *pretensions*. *L'Estrange.*  
The commons demand that the consularship should lie in common to the *pretensions* of any Roman. *Locke.*
2. Fictitious appearance. A Latin phrase or sense.  
This was but an invention and *pretension* given out by the Spaniards. *Bacon.*
- PRETER. *n. s.* [*preter*, Lat.] A particle, which prefixed to words of Latin original, signifies *before*.  
PRETERIMPERFECT. *adj.* In grammar, denotes the tense not perfectly past.
- PRETERIT. *adj.* [*preterit*, Fr. *preteritus*, Lat.] Past.
- PRETERITION. *n. s.* [*preteritio*, Fr. *from preterit*.] The act of going past; the state of being past.
- PRETERITNESS. *n. s.* [*from preterit*.] State of being past; not present; not futurity.

## PRE

- We cannot conceive a *preterit* still backwards in infinitum, that never was present, as we can an endless futurity, that never will be present; so that though one is potentially infinite, yet nevertheless the other is positively finite: and this reasoning doth not at all affect the eternal existence of the adorable divinity, in whose invariable nature there is no past nor future. *Bentley's Sermon.*
- PRETERLAPSED. *adj.* [*preterlappus*, Lat.] Past and gone.  
We look with a superstitious reverence upon the accounts of *preterlapsed* ages. *Glanvill's Scep.*  
Never was there so much of either, in any *preterlapsed* age, as in this. *Walker.*
- PRETERLEGAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *legal*.] Not agreeable to law.  
I expected some evil customs *preterlegal*, and abuses personal, had been to be removed. *King Charles.*
- PRETERMISSION. *n. s.* [*pretermisio*, Fr. *pretermisio*, Lat.] The act of omitting.  
To PRETERMIT. *v. a.* [*pretermitto*, Lat.] To pass by.  
The fees, that are termly given to these deputies, for recompence of their pains, I do purposely *pretermitt*; because they be not certain. *Bacon.*
- PRETERNATURAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *natural*.] Different from what is natural; irregular.  
We will enquire into the cause of this vile and *preternatural* temper of mind, that should make a man please himself with that, which can no ways reach those faculties, which nature has made the proper seat of pleasure. *South's Sermons.*  
That form, which the earth is under at present, is *preternatural*, like a statue made and broken again. *Burnet.*
- PRETERNATURALLY. *adv.* [*from preternatural*.] In a manner different from the common order of nature.  
Simple air, *preternaturally* attenuated by heat, will make itself room, and break and blow up all that which resisteth it. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- PRETERNATURALNESS. *n. s.* [*from preternatural*.] Manner different from the order of nature.
- PRETERPERFECT. *adj.* [*pretermittum perfectum*, Lat.] A grammatical term applied to the tense which denotes time absolutely past.  
The same natural aversion to loquacity has of late made a considerable alteration in our language, by closing in one syllable the termination of our *preterperfect* tense, as *drown'd*, *walk'd*, for *drowned*, *walked*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- PRETERPLUPERFECT. *adj.* [*pretermittum plusquam perfectum*, Lat.] The grammatical epithet for the tense denoting time relatively past, or past before some other past time.
- PRETEXT. *n. s.* [*pretextus*, Lat. *pretextus*, Fr.] Pretence; false appearance; false allegation.  
My *pretext* to strike at him admits  
A good construction. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*  
Under this *pretext*, the means he sought  
To ruin such whose might did much exceed  
His pow'r to wrong. *Daniel's Civil War.*  
As chymists gold from brass by fire would draw,  
*Pretexts* are into treason forg'd by law. *Denham.*  
I shall not say with how much, or how little *pretext* of reason they managed those disputes. *Decay of Piety.*  
They suck the blood of those they depend upon, under a *pretext* of service and kindness. *L'Estrange.*
- PRETOR. *n. s.* [*pretor*, Lat. *pretor*, Fr.] The Roman judge.  
It is now sometimes taken for a mayor.  
Good Cinna, take this paper;  
And look you lay it in the *pretor's* chair. *Shakespeare.*  
Porphyrius, whom you Egypt's *pretor* made,  
Is come from Alexandria to your aid. *Dryden.*  
An advocate, pleading the cause of his client before one of the *pretors*, could only produce a single witness, in a point where the law required two. *Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup> 55b.
- PRETORIAN. *adj.* [*pretorianus*, Lat. *pretorian*, Fr.] Judicial; exercised by the *pretor*.  
The chancery had the *pretorian* power for equity; the star-chamber had the censorial power for offences. *Bacon.*
- PRETTILY. *adv.* [*from pretty*.] Neatly; elegantly; pleasingly without dignity or elevation.  
How *prettily* the young swain seems to wash  
The hand was fair before. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*  
One faith *prettily*; in the quenching of the flame of a plentiful ague, nature is like people that come to quench the fire of a house; so busy, as one letteth another. *Bacon.*  
Children, kept out of ill company, take a pride to behave themselves *prettily*, after the fashion of others. *Locke.*
- PRETTINESS. *n. s.* [*from pretty*.] Beauty without dignity; neat elegance without elevation.  
There is goodliness in the bodies of animals, as in the ox, greyhound and stag; or majesty and stateliness, as in the lion, horse, eagle and cock; grave awfulness, as in mastiffs; or elegance and *prettiness*, as in lesser dogs and most sort of birds; all which are several modes of beauty.  
Those drops of *prettiness*, scattered sprinkled amongst the creatures, were designed to defecate and exalt our conceptions, not to inveigle or detain our passions. *Locke.*
- PRETTY. *adj.* [*præ*, finery, Sax. *pretto*, Italian; *prat*, *prattig*, Dutch.]  
1. Neat; elegant; pleasing without surprise or elevation.  
Of these idle Greeks have many *pretty* tales. *Raleigh.*  
They found themselves involved in a train of mistakes, by taking up some *pretty* hypothesis in philosophy. *Watts.*
2. Beautiful without grandeur or dignity.  
The *pretty* gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind. *Spectator.*
3. It is used in a kind of diminutive contempt in poetry, and in conversation: as, a *pretty fellow* indeed!  
A *pretty* task; and so I told the fool,  
Who needs must undertake to please by rule. *Dryden.*  
He'll make a *pretty* figure in a triumph,  
And serve to trip before the victor's chariot. *Addison.*
4. Not very small. This is a very vulgar use.  
A knight of Wales, with shipping and some *pretty* company, did go to discover those parts. *Abbot.*  
Cut off the stalks of cucumbers, immediately after their bearing, close by the earth, and then cast a *pretty* quantity of earth upon the plant, and they will bear next year before the ordinary time. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
I would have a mount of some *pretty* height, leaving the wall of the enclosure breast high. *Bacon's Essays.*  
Of this mixture we put a parcel into a crucible, and suffered it for a *pretty* while to continue red hot. *Boyle.*  
A weazle a *pretty* way off stood leering at him. *L'Estr.*
- PRETTY. *adv.* In some degree. This word is used before adverbs or adjectives to intend their signification: it is less than very.  
The world begun to be *pretty* well stocked with people, and human industry drained those uninhabited places. *Burnet.*  
I shall not enquire how far this lofty method may advance the reputation of learning; but I am *pretty* sure 'tis no great addition to theirs who use it. *Collier.*  
A little voyage round the lake took up five days, though the wind was *pretty* fair for us all the while. *Addison.*  
I have a fondness for a project, and a *pretty* tolerable genius that way myself. *Addison's Guardian*, N<sup>o</sup> 107.  
These colours were faint and dilute, unless the light was trajected obliquely; for by that means they became *pretty* vivid. *Newton's Opticks.*  
This writer every where insinuates, and, in one place, *pretty* plainly professes himself a sincere christian. *Atterbury.*  
The copper halfpence are coined by the publick, and every piece worth *pretty* near the value of the copper. *Swift.*  
The first attempts of this kind were *pretty* modest. *Baker.*
- To PREVAIL. *v. n.* [*prevailor*, Fr. *prevailere*, Lat.]  
1. To be in force; to have effect; to have power; to have influence.  
This custom makes the short-sighted bigots, and the warrier scepticks, as far as it *prevails*. *Locke.*
2. To overcome; to gain the superiority. With on or upon, sometimes *over* or *against*.  
They that were your enemies, are his,  
And have *prevail'd* as much on him as you. *Shakespeare.*  
Nor is it hard for thee to perceive me amidst the unjust hatred and jealousy of too many, which thou hast suffered to *prevail* upon me. *King Charles.*  
I told you then he should *prevail*, and speed  
On his bad errand. *Milton.*  
The millenium *prevailed* long against the truth upon the strength of authority. *Decay of Piety.*  
While Malbro's cannon thus *prevails* by land,  
Britain's sea-chiefs by Anna's high command,  
Rebels o'er the Thulean billows ride. *Blackmore.*  
Thus long could *prevail*  
O'er death and o'er hell,  
A conquest how hard and how glorious;  
Though fate had fast bound her  
With Styx nine times round her,  
Yet musick and love were victorious. *Pope.*  
This kingdom could never *prevail* against the united power of England. *Swift.*
3. To gain influence; to operate effectually.
4. To persuade or induce by entreaty. It has with, upon or on before the person persuaded.  
With minds obdurate nothing *prevails*, as well they that preach, as they that read unto such, shall still have cause to complain with the prophets of old, who will give credit unto our teaching? *Hooker*, b. v. f. 22.  
He was *prevailed* with to refrain the earl of Bristol upon his first arrival. *Clarendon.*  
The serpent with me  
Persuasively have so *prevail'd*, that I  
Have also tasted. *Milton.*  
They are more in danger to go out of the way, who are marching under the conduct of a guide, that it is an hundred to one will mislead them, than he that has not yet taken a step, and is likelier to be *prevailed* on to enquire after the right way. *Locke.*  
There are four sorts of arguments that men, in their reasonings with others, make use of to prevail on them. *Locke.*

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- The gods pray  
He would resume the conduct of the day,  
Nor let the world be lost in endless night;  
*Prevail'd* upon at last, again he took  
The harness'd steeds, that fill with horror shook. *Addison.*  
Upon assurances of revolt, the queen was *prevailed* with to send her forces upon that expedition. *Swift.*  
*Prevail* upon some judicious friend to be your constant hearer, and allow him the utmost freedom. *Swift.*
- PREVAILING. *adj.* [*from prevail*.] Predominant; having most influence.  
Probabilities, which cross men's appetites and *prevailing* passions, run the same fate: let never so much probability hang on one side of a covetous man's reasoning, and money on the other, it is easy to foresee which will outweigh. *Locke.*  
Save the friendless infants from oppression;  
Saints shall assist thee with *prevailing* prayers,  
And warring angels combat on thy side. *Rowe.*
- PREVAILMENT. *n. s.* [*from prevail*.] Prevalence.  
Messengers  
Of strong *prevailment* in unhard'n'd youth. *Shakespeare.*
- PREVALENCE. *n. s.* [*prevallence*, Fr. *prevallentia*, low Lat.]  
PREVALENCY. } Superiority; influence; predominance.  
The duke better knew, what kind of arguments were of *prevallence* with him. *Clarendon.*  
Others finding that, in former times, many churchmen were employed in the civil government, imputed their wanting of these ornaments their predecessors wore, to the power and *prevallency* of the lawyers. *Clarendon.*  
Animals, whose forelegs supply the use of arms, hold, if not an equality in both, a *prevallency* oft times in the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- Why, fair one, would you not rely  
On reason's force with beauty's join'd;  
Could I their *prevallence* deny,  
I must at once be deaf and blind. *Prior.*  
Least of all does this precept imply, that we should comply with any thing that the *prevallence* of corrupt fashion has made reputable. *Rogers's Sermons.*
- PREVALENT. *adj.* [*prevallens*, Lat.] Victorious; gaining superiority.  
Brennus told the Roman ambassadors, that *prevallent* arms were as good as any title, and that valiant men might account to be their own as much as they could get. *Raleigh.*  
On the foughten field,  
Michael and his angels *prevallent* encamping. *Milton.*  
The conduct of a peculiar providence made the instruments of that great design *prevallent* and victorious, and all those mountains of opposition to become plains. *South's Sermons.*
2. Predominant; powerful.  
Eve! easily may faith admit, that all  
The good which we enjoy, from heav'n descends;  
But, that from us ought should ascend to heav'n,  
So *prevallent*, as to concern the mind  
Of God high-bless'd; or to incline his will;  
Hard to belief may seem. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
This was the most received and *prevallent* opinion, when I first brought my collection up to London. *Woodward.*
- PREVALENTLY. *adv.* [*from prevalent*.] Powerfully; forcibly.  
The evening-star so falls into the main,  
To rise at morn more *prevallently* bright. *Prior.*
- To PREVARICATE. *v. n.* [*prevariator*, Lat. *prevariquer*, Fr.] To cavil; to quibble; to shuffle.  
Laws are either disannulled or quite *prevaricated* through change and alteration of times, yet they are good in themselves. *Spenser.*  
He *prevariates* with his own understanding, and cannot seriously consider the strength, and discern the evidence of arguments against his desires. *South.*  
Whoever helped him to this citation, I desire he will never trust him more; for I would think better of himself, than that he would wilfully *prevaricate*. *Stillingfleet.*
- PREVARICATION. *n. s.* [*prevariatio*, Lat. *prevariation*, Fr. *from prevariate*.] Shuffle; cavil.  
Several Romans, taken prisoners by Hannibal, were released upon obliging themselves by an oath to return again to his camp: among these was one, who, thinking to elude the oath, went the same day back to the camp, on pretence of having forgot something; but this *prevariation* was so shocking to the Roman senate, that they ordered him to be delivered up to Hannibal. *Addison's Freeholder.*
- PREVARICATOR. *n. s.* [*prevariator*, Lat. *prevariator*, Fr. *from prevariate*.] A caviller; a shuffler.
- PREVENT. *adj.* [*preveniens*, Lat.] Preceding; going before; preventive.  
From the mercy-seat above  
Prevent grace descending, had remov'd  
The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh  
Regenerate grow instead. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
To PREVENT. *v. a.* [*prevengo*, Lat.] To hinder.  
If thy indulgent care  
Had not *prevent'd*, among unbody'd shades  
I now had wander'd. *Philips.*